

DRUG-INDUCED RAPE PREVENTION
AND PUNISHMENT ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, because I believe that it is critically important that we increase the penalties for possession and trafficking in Rohypnol, I support this legislation even though it does not go far enough.

Rohypnol has been proven dangerous. The drug is odorless, colorless and tasteless and cause sedation and euphoric effects within 15 minutes. The effects are boosted further by alcohol or marijuana. And, most offensively, Rohypnol has become the tool of predators who spike the drinks of unsuspecting young women and then rape them.

Recognizing the dangers posed by Rohypnol, the DEA has begun the administrative process of moving Rohypnol from Schedule IV to Schedule I to put the drug in the same category—and have it carry the same penalties—as other dangerous drugs including LSD and heroin.

In an effort to speed up the process of changing Rohypnol's schedule, last week, the Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to reschedule the drug. Despite that vote, this week, we see a brand new bill on the floor without the rescheduling provision?

Why, you might ask, would anyone oppose rescheduling a dangerous drug with no legitimate purpose in the United States and which has been used to facilitate the rape of numerous young women, including many minors? Why would anyone argue for lenient treatment of a drug that has been banned by the FDA and declared dangerous by the DEA?

Because Hoffman-LaRoche, the pharmaceutical company that manufactures Rohypnol and which sells the drug in 64 foreign countries, has worked very hard to see the rescheduling provision dropped. Hoffman-LaRoche stands to lose \$100 million if Rohypnol is rescheduled because sales in other countries tend to go down when the United States decides a drug is so dangerous that it belongs on Schedule I.

So in today's legislation, Rohypnol remains a Schedule IV drug not because anyone actually believes it is as safe as other Schedule IV drugs like Valium, but because a drug company has successfully lobbied—to the detriment to women and girls across the country—to keep Rohypnol's Schedule IV status.

I sincerely hope that after this bill has passed, we can go back to the Committee process and pass a bill rescheduling Rohypnol so it is treated as seriously as other dangerous drugs.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM F. ZENGA:
A TRUE TRAILBLAZER FOR THE
DREDGING INDUSTRY IN NEW
JERSEY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual whose distin-

guished service to his community and the labor movement in New Jersey will long be remembered. Mr. William Zenga's efforts will be commemorated on September 28, 1996, when the headquarters of the International Union Operating Engineers is renamed in his honor.

The dedication ceremony of the William F. Zenga Building will be the culmination of a long and notable career. Mr. Zenga's journey to this monumental occasion began upon his graduation from Dickerson High School, Jersey City in 1939 when he became a dredgeman. One year later, he attained the position of operating engineer which he has held continuously, interrupted only by a period of service as a Navy SeeBee during World War II where he earned the rank of chief petty officer.

Mr. Zenga's career in the dredging industry has lasted 56 years. During that time, he has taken up the cause of his fellow dredgemen through his activities with the International Union of Operating Engineers, local 25. Since the inception of local 25, Mr. Zenga has held a number of positions starting as a business agent and executive board member, and progressively moving upward in the labor organization. He has held positions as vice president of the Maritime Port Council of the Delaware Valley and Vicinity, vice president of the Maritime Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and trustee of the Maritime Port Council of Greater New York.

Commitment to family and community are paramount to Mr. Zenga. He and his wife, Caroline, make their home in Woodbridge, and are the proud parents of three sons: James, an attorney, William, Jr., an oral surgeon, and Jack, a certified public accountant. Mr. Zenga's interest in having our waterway be free for passage by our Nation's shipping fleet has led to involvement in a number of associations that promote the dredging and maritime industry. He currently serves as a board member of the State of New Jersey Maritime Advisory Council, the New York State Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee, and a member of the New Jersey Alliance for Action.

It is an honor to recognize the important work of this dedicated individuals. His contributions to the dredging industry are of tremendous importance to many of the residents of my district who depend on an unobstructed coastline to make a living. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and pay tribute to this trailblazer in the dredging industry.

CONCERNING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE 1991 MASSACRE IN EAST
TIMOR

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, as cochairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I have long been concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation on the Indonesian island of East Timor.

On November 12, 1996, we will mark the fifth anniversary of the brutal massacre of peaceful, unarmed protesters at the Santa Cruz Cemetery in the capital of East Timor. As many as 273 defenseless citizens were killed by the Indonesian military in a ferocious, unprovoked attack.

The Indonesian security forces who were responsible for this brutal act of terror are still operating with impunity throughout East Timor. This impunity is illustrated by the legal aftermath of the massacre. Those military personnel who were responsible for the massacre received a slap on the wrist; the strongest punishment was house arrest. Compare this with the harsh punishment meted out to those who were convicted of organizing peaceful protests. They received sentences ranging from 9 years to life in prison. They are still in prison as we speak.

The Dili massacre is one of the most egregious, but by no means the only, example of severe repression in East Timor. Arbitrary arrests, militarization of the island, and training and arming young East Timorese loyal to the Indonesian Government are all on the rise.

It is unconscionable that we are considering transfer of high-technology military equipment to a country whose military is responsible for such a reprehensible act against its own people. I hope that Members will consider the consequences for the people of East Timor when we turn a blind eye to horrible acts such as this.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BEILENSEN

HON. GERRY E. STUDDS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our retiring colleague, TONY BEILENSEN of California. Congressman BEILENSEN is one of the most constructive and productive Members of this body. While his diligence has earned his colleagues' respect in a variety of substantive areas, his lifelong legislative passion has been in habitat protection, especially for the endangered African elephant, and the Asian tiger and rhinoceros.

As I noted at a recent Resources Committee hearing on elephants, tigers, and rhinos, Jonathan Swift wrote, in 1793, "Geographers mapping Africa over uninhabitable downs placed elephants for want of towns." For better or worse, Europeans saw fit soon to rectify what they viewed as a shortage of towns with the colonization of the African Continent. And along with that colonization came big game hunters and a booming global trade in elephant ivory.

Two hundred and fifty years after Swift penned that little poem, American consumers were indirectly responsible for the deaths of thousands of elephants each year, and the millions of elephants that had once stood on maps in the place of African towns were reduced to fewer than 700,000.

This magnificent species was facing the possibility of extinction in the wild if the slaughter were not stopped. Fortunately, we were able to respond to the pending crisis and diminish, if not completely halt, the uncontrolled killing of African elephants for their dubious honor of emerging from the evolutionary process bearing a resource more precious than gold.

Although habitat protection and the pressures of industrialization continue to pose a threat to African elephant populations, this species appears to be on the rebound, thanks in part to our colleague from California.